NHDES

The State of New Hampshire

Department of Environmental Services



Michael P. Nolin Commissioner

November 9, 2005

LETTER OF DEFICIENCY #WSEB 05-173 Certified Mail #7099 3400 0003 0691 2885

Dana Bonica Tamworth Camping Area PO Box 99 Tamworth, NH 03886

Subject: Tamworth - Public Water System: Tamworth Camping Area / Rec. Barn (EPA# 2317110)

Dear Mr. Bonica:

The records of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) show that the Tamworth Camping Area/Rec. Barn water system is classified as a public water system (PWS), as defined by RSA 485:1-a. A PWS is defined as any water system serving 15 or more services, or 25 or more people for 60 or more days per year. As such, the water system owner is required to submit samples to the State laboratory or a State-certified laboratory for coliform bacteria analysis in compliance with NH Administrative Rule Env-Ws 325.

DES records show that Standard Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations for total coliform bacteria, as defined in NH Admin. Rule Env-Ws 315.01 have occurred and that letters of violation were issued for the following months:

September 2005 and October 2005

DES records also show that the October 2005 MCL violation is this seasonal system's <u>ninth</u> MCL violation since September of 2000. This history brings into question the system's ability to reliably and consistently provide drinking water that meets applicable water quality standards. The October 2005 violation is also the system's second MCL violation since a staff member of the NH Rural Water Association (NHRWA - now known as Granite State Rural Water Association) wrote a detailed report, dated December 8, 2004, that listed several recommendations to correct the frequent bacterial contamination events. (A copy of the NHRWA report is enclosed.) It is unclear which, if any, of the recommendations have been implemented.

DES believes the MCL violations can be corrected and future violations prevented by taking the following action:

• By November 30, 2005, submit to DES for review a written report identifying which of the recommendations contained in the December 8, 2004, NHRWA report have been implemented, which recommendations will be implemented before the opening of the 2006 season, and any additional/other actions that have been or will be taken to prevent future bacterial contamination events. If you do not intend to implement one or more of the NHRWA recommendations, please state the reason why.

DES Web site: www.des.nh.gov

In the event compliance is not achieved within this period, DES may initiate formal action against you, including issuing an order requiring the deficiencies to be corrected, initiating an administrative fine proceeding, and/or referring the matter to the NH Department of Justice for imposition of appropriate penalties.

The copy of the written report as requested above should be addressed as follows:

Alan Leach
Department of Environmental Services
Water Supply Engineering Bureau
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Please be reminded to carry out the public notice requirements and provide proof of public notice to DES for the September and October 2005 MCL violations.

Assistance may be available to you through a variety of sources. Financial, managerial and technical assistance is available through either of two government funded technical assistance providers. These are Granite State Rural Water Association ((603) 753-4055) and RCAP Solutions, Inc. (1-800-488-1969). Health related questions may be directed to Dave Gordon of the DES Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health whose number is (603) 271-4608. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Alan Leach at (603) 271-2854 or by email at aleach@des.state.nh.us.

Sincerely,

Sarah Pillsbury, P.G., Administrator Water Supply Engineering Bureau

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Enclosure:

NH Rural Water Association report

cc w/o encl.:

Gretchen R. Hamel, DES Legal Unit Administrator

Town of Tamworth Health Officer

Dave Gordon, DES BEOH

EPA, Region 1

ec w/ encl.:

Jim Gill, P.E., DES Jack Shields, GSRWA

Robert Morancy, RCAP Solutions, Inc.